

REMARKS

Although Applicants have elected Claims 1-12 for prosecution without traverse, Applicants would like to note that none of the pending claims are related solely to the subject matter illustrated in any one of Figures 2A, 4A or 14. For example, all of the claims relate to an optical network or networks (or a method performed in association with an optical network or networks). None of the claims are limited to a single add/drop node (as illustrated in Figures 2A or 14) or a single gateway node (as illustrated in Figure 4A). Therefore, the claim groupings proposed on page 3 of the Office Action do not correspond directly with the species/embodiments/figures identified in the first paragraph of the Office Action. As an example only and not with intent to limit the scope of the claims, Applicants note that Figures 11 and 12 are more relevant to elected Claims 1-12 than Figure 4A by itself.

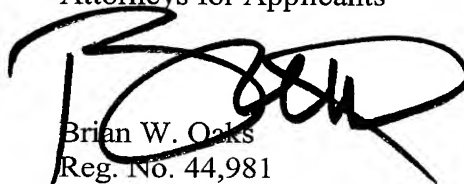
CONCLUSION

Although no fees are believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicant at 214.953.6986.

Respectfully submitted,

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